

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a lithographic printing master comprising the steps of:

providing an imaging material which comprises a lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and a non-ablative image-recording layer comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to heat ~~or light~~;

image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to heat ~~or light~~; and

processing the material by supplying to the image-recording layer a single-fluid ink which is an emulsion of an ink phase and a non-aqueous polar phase.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure and is rendered less removable after exposure.

3-5. (Canceled) /

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of image-wise exposing and/or the step of processing are carried out while the imaging material is present in a rotary printing press.

11. (New) A method according to claim 10 wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light.

12. (New) A method according to claim 11 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

13. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

15. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light, and wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin, and the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

17. (New) A method of making a lithographic printing master comprising the steps of:

providing an imaging material which comprises a lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and a non-ablative image-recording layer comprising an aryldiazosulfonate polymer which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to light;

image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to light; and

processing the material by supplying to the image-recording layer a single-fluid ink which is an emulsion of an ink phase and a non-aqueous polar phase.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the image-recording layer is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure and is rendered less removable after exposure.

19. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the image-recording layer is exposed to UV light.

20. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

23. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the step of image-wise exposing and/or the step of processing are carried out while the imaging material is present in a rotary printing press.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25 wherein the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

27. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the image-recording layer comprises an infrared light absorbing compound and is exposed to infrared light, and wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

a continuous ink phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin and
a discontinuous polar phase comprising a liquid polyol.

28. (New) A method according to claim 27 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin, and the vinyl resin has a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.
